Reduction in power thefts

376. SHRI G.K. VASAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a reduction in power theft in 2002-2003;

(b) if so, the State-wise details of such reduction; and

(c) if not, the steps proposed to be taken to reduce power theft?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATIJAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) As per Central Elctricity Authority; the figures for reduction in power theft in 2002-03 are not available.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

(c) The Elctricity Act, 2003 provides a legal framework for making theft of electricity a cognizable offence. Under Section 135 of the electricity Act, 2003, whoever dishonestly taps lines or cables or service wires, tampers damages or destroys meters etc., shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years or with fine or with both. A scheme is being implemented to grant incentives for State Governments/Power Utilities which show reduction in cash losses, a significant portion of which is because of theft of power.

Power production in Bihar

† 377. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the power production in Bihar as on date;

(b) the demand of power in rural and urban areas; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to meet the demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) During the period April-June 03' the electricity generation in Bihar was 1380 Million Units.

(b) Supply and distribution of electricity within a State is in the purview of concerned State Government/State Power Utility.The priority of power

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.